

The Hartshorne House

of Ancient Bedding

in the

Massachusetts Bay Colony



Measure
Room

74.4
Lakefield
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Wakefield, Mass.



Photographed by Edward A. Rich

The Hartshorne House of 1937

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The History
of the
Hartshorne House
in
Wakefield, Massachusetts

Compiled and Written by
William Everett Eaton

Published by the Col. Hartshorne House Association
1937

One Dollar Per Copy

Item Press, Wakefield, Massachusetts

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Foreword

This little book is the history of the Hartshorne House, that is situated on the northerly side of the present Church street, formerly the old road from "Redding" to Woburn, in Wakefield, Massachusetts. It contains a narrative of what is now known to be the oldest house still standing in the town. The so-called Emerson House (earlier the Kendall House) further to the west and on the corner of Prospect and Cedar streets has been an equal claimant for distinction as to age. Both belong to the early days of the settlement of "Redding"; however, recent research gives such conclusive evidence, as to place the Hartshorne House in first place.

The Hartshorne House, long erroneously known as the "Lafayette House", standing, as it does, at the southern end of "Redding Pond" and in the centre of the earliest activities of the first settlement, and on an important highway which opened up a tremendous acreage to the west, lends itself to a narrative covering almost three centuries. This narrative would naturally concern the men and women having ownership from about 1647, down to 1937 and would include facts about the Hartshorne House Association.

To this Col. Hartshorne House Association the Town of Wakefield has entrusted the care and perpetuation of his historic dwelling and the land adjoining it.

Grateful acknowledgement is here made to Mrs. Winfield Scott Ripley, clerk of the Colonel Hartshorne House Association, who assisted in the preparation of the manuscript for the press, in the proofreading and in various matters of arrangement.

WILLIAM E. EATON

Wakefield, Mass.

September, 1937

This narrative concerns:

I. The successive ownership of the Hartshorne House, the land upon which it stands, and its probable age.

II. The documents that have furnished the data for this narrative.

III. The men and women, who, from the early settlement of Redding, 1639—1644, were either owners or occupants of the premises. Their story will be told, more or less genealogically and historically, as the records portray it, following exhaustive research on the part of the author.

Chapter I

THE HOUSE ITSELF
AND
ITS OWNERS

SUCCESSIVE OWNERSHIP

Town of Redding Grant of Nine Acres to William Hooper

About 1638 and 1639 the town of Lynn made large grants of land to certain of its inhabitants. A considerable number of these grants consisted of land lying east of a line running due north from the present Crystal Lake, through Lake Quannapowitt to the Ipswich river. The settlement of this land within the borders of the present town of Wakefield followed without delay. We have a record as early as 1647 of twenty-nine families with established homesteads, and at least seven as early as 1644 when the town of Redding was incorporated.

In this list is to be found the name of William Hooper, with a grant of nine acres, in the first General Division of Land in Redding on Oct. 6, 1647. These twenty-nine grants, of which that to Hooper was one, were of somewhat small acreage, running from five to thirty acres each, presumably home-lots.

In 1639 the Colony Court granted to Lynn a four square mile grant to the west to the Woburn line—an extension of the above-mentioned grant of 1638. It is evident that the distribution of the 1639 grants by Lynn was restricted to the first settlers of Redding, and leads the writer to the belief that the General Division of land in 1647 was merely a confirmation of grants previously made.

The ground for this belief is this—that on January 11, 1644, the Town of Redding made a grant recorded as follows: "To William Hooper, Lynn Medow". The inference is that Hooper was a land owner, if not an actual settler, as early as 1644, and it is unlikely that he continued there until 1647 without his own dwelling.

WHO WAS WILLIAM HOOPER?

For this narrative, he was the original owner of the land upon which the Hartshorne House now stands. Naturally we must recognize the Indians as primary owners. Then follows a grant by the English Council to Capt. John Mason and to Robert, the son of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, known as the Gorges grant of 1620. Next in order of ownership appears Sir Henry Rosewell, John Endicott and others, who were granted all "that part of New England lying between three miles to the north of the Merrimac and three miles south of the Charles River, and of every part thereof, in the Massachusetts Bay,—and in length between the described breadth from the Atlantic Ocean to the South Sea." This grant was made in 1627.

Into this picture, later, came the Massachusetts Bay Colony with its grants of 1638 and 1639. The earlier line may have passed through the Hartshorne House land, since its location was

evidently on or near the dividing line of these two grants—a line running due north from Smith's Pond to and through Redding Pond to the Ipswich River.

That there was a question of primary ownership is shown by the records of the old Indian Deed, signed, sealed and delivered in 1686 to "Mr. John Brown, Capt. Jeremiah Sweyne and Lt. William Harsey, trustees and prudentials for ye towne of Reading to their heirs and assigns forever, & for the sole use of ye purchasers, & now proprietors of ye Townships of Lynn & Reading."

This deed establishes the claim of the Indians to ownership of the land in this locality; and it would appear that their right to convey was legally recognized.

The writer mentions these facts, because Thomas Hodgman, a later owner, paid one shilling of the ten pounds paid to the Indians for Redding lands. It is also worthy of note that two early Hartshornes—Joseph and Benjamin—were also contributors to this same purchase price—the former for five pence, the latter for tenpence. May we not then say that the ancestors of Col. James Hartshorne were, in a way, original part owners of the present Hartshorne House property?

But to return to William Hooper!

In the last week of July, 1635, there sailed from England the ship "James", John May, Master. Its destination was New England in America. Among a goodly number of emigrant passengers were two young men—Thomas Marshall, aged 22, and William Hooper, aged 18 years, who were soon to be among the first settlers of Old Redding.

The original shipping list, compiled in England and printed by Col. Charles Edward Banks, a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society in his "The Planters of the Commonwealth", capitalizes the Marshall name and prints the Hooper name in "lower case", indicating that Hooper came under the care of Marshall, as a relative, a person under age, an apprentice or as a servant. This arrangement was a common occurrence in those early days of American immigration. Hooper's wife, Elizabeth, was a sister of Thomas Marshall, Jr., and daughter of Thomas Marshall, Sr.

Marshall, Jr., landed at Boston, went soon to Lynn to join his father who "came earlier" and in 1638 was granted 30 acres and ten in what was later to be the town of Reading. It is probable that Hooper followed Marshall to Lynn; but it was not until 1644 that we find the grant of a meadow to Hooper, called "Lynn Meadow". Its location is not known. Next came the 9-acre home-lot of 1647, on which he built his house. The grant of 1647 names him as an owner of a dwelling.

The names of William Hooper and Eliza or Elizabeth Hooper appear on the first extant church records of Reading in 1648. There is no indication except as above mentioned of relationship,

whether Eliza was wife, mother or sister. The first evidence of the name of a wife is that of Ruth in Hooper's deed to Hodgman in 1664. The names of Thomas Marshall, carpenter, and Lieut. Marshall and wife, "dismissed from Lynn", appear on the same page of the first church book.

From 1647 the record of the Hartshorne House and site is clear beyond dispute! From a chronological study of available records and documents it would appear that the west part of this old dwelling was built about 1681. To prove this, there follows a series of property conveyances, and related facts of supporting interest.

Hooper's grant of 9 acres in 1647 was on both sides of Church street. There was no other grant to him until some years later. Here he built his house on the *Southerly* side of the road—the old and first highway leading from Reading to Woburn.

On Dec. 14, 1664 William Hooper, with wife, Ruth, joining, deeded this homestead to Mary Hodgman, wife of Thomas Hodgman, who had appeared in Reading the previous year. This deed reads:

"My now dwelling house, being situated in Red^ding with fower acres of land adjoining, with the orchard, garden and fencing thereto adjoining, bounded: on the *north* by the highway; on the east by land of Isaac Hart (later the Ministerial Land); on the south by land of Robert Burnap, Jr. (who owned the land extending west from the present Baptist Church); and on the west with the land of Thomas Kendall (later the James Emerson homestead.)" Consideration, 26^s.

Note that the dwelling house was located *South* of the highway! No mention is made of land north of the road. It is probable that the old Woburn road ran to the north of the present Church street.

This deed was acknowledged before William Cowdrey and Thomas Kendall, Commissioners of Reding, Dec. 14, 1664, but not acknowledged before Simon Williams. Assist., until the 7th of the 4th month, 1669, and not recorded at Cambridge until the 2d of the 11th month 1671.

The probable reasons for Hooper's selling to the Hodgmans were, first, that his home-lot was too limited for his farming requirements; and that his nine acres had shrunk to about four acres; that he, like many others, of the first settlers, had complained of this shortage of land granted, and so we find that the town in 1650 Dec. 26, granted him a piece of meadow in the Great Swamp "for his satisfaction". Second, that on Dec. 3, 1660, the town again made a grant to Hooper "of ten acres of land at the end of his ten acre lot that he was to have in Burchen Plain, to lay at the end of his ten acre lot, a part of it to lay against John Damon's ten acre lot". This ten acres was on the present Prospect street, near or at the corner of Hopkins street,

with the "Hooper Meadow" to the west—a later grant, or was it the original grant of the "Lynn Meadow" in 1644?

Thus the time was ripe for a newer home and more desirable farm land. John Poole could saw the lumber in his new mill on Lot End Road. The Hodgman's arrival in Reading and desire for a domicile provided the customer for the Church street property. Hodgman had only the year previous married Mary (Young) Morrill, widow of Ezekiel Morrill, who had, earlier in 1663, died while on a visit to Roxbury. His estate of the value of £93 was left by will to his widow, Mary.

The Hodgmans made their home on the Hooper homestead until 1725, where, on Sept. 8 they sold to the Widow Paterson, the same fower acres "and it is a part of the Homestead that the said Hodgman lived on; and it bounded southerly by land of Capt. Thomas Nichols; easterly by the ministerial land; northerly by the highway; westerly by Kendall Boutwell's land; and ALSO Thirty Poles of land x x and it is the other part of said Hodgman's land; and the above premises contains one house and barn; and said Thirty Poles is bounded SOUTHERLY by the highway; Easterly with the Town Common; Northerly by Thomas Boutwell's meadow; together with the orchards, fencing, trees, timber, etc."

The key to the location of Hodgman's house at this time lies in the Thirty Pole piece of land or was it only Twenty-five Poles to be exact? The record at this point is that on Feb. 11, 1683-4 the Town Commissioners, (Jeremiah Sweyne, John Brown and Hannaniah Parker), reporte^d that on June 26, 1681, there had been sold to Thomas Hodgman "25 Poles laying at the WEST END OF HIS HOUSE: bounded by Goodman Edwards' land on the North; the Town Highway on the SOUTH; and Westerly by the Town Common". This sale was made under a vote of the Town in 1679; one of the provisions being that "no land be sold except for money".

A reasonable deduction is that sometime between 1664 and 1681 Hodgman had built himself a house on the NORTHERLY side of the highway, just across the road from the original Hooper dwelling which in all probability consisted of a small, hastily-erected building, as was common in the early settlement of Reading.

The deduction becomes more convincing in the next sale of this four-acre property. Hodgman had no need of more land since he had leased a large tract of land from Isaac Hart, extending from his property east to the Town Common as it is today. This fact was incorporated in the deed of Isaac Hart to the Town in 1688 of the land extending north from the present Baptist Church to the Pond, on which land was erected the Second Meeting House. Furthermore, the Hodgmans had no children, except a small adopted son.

To return to our deductions—the Widow Paterson made her home in the newer Hodgman house for thirteen years. On her death in 1738 the property came to her son, James Paterson of Sudbury, Mass., who sold it—not in ONE but in TWO separate parcels! Parcel One—Apr. 7, 1757 James Paterson sold to Jonathan Cowdrey for sixteen pounds, a parcel of land, situated in Reading, about a quarter of a mile west from the Old South Parish Meeting House, containing about half an acre, bounded: beginning at the SOUTHEAST corner; running West in a straight line upon the County Road: from the southwest corner northerly partly upon the Common, and partly upon Doctor William Hay's land: and from the west to the East upon the Pond Meadow, formerly of Thomas Boutwell's, now in possession of Doctor William Hay, and partly on Common land, and in a straight line to the road, said land contains ONE SMALL HOUSE!!"

This, the writer believes, was the west part of the present Hartshorne House, as it is this year of 1937, but built on or before that notable and fact finding sale of 1681.

Antiquarian authorities agree, after a careful study of this ancient dwelling, that the *West end* is the original part and is of *Great Age*. The records clearly show this to be a fact. It is improbable that Widow Paterson felt any necessity for an enlargement of her dwelling during her ownership.

On July 24, 1758, only a few months after the conveyance above cited, James Paterson sold to Samuel Poole for twenty-two pounds and thirteen shillings, the four and a quarter acres of land on the *South* side of the Highway—the original Hooper home site! BUT this deed did not mention any BUILDING UPON THE LAND conveyed. This is good evidence that the old Hooper house no longer existed but was replaced by the Hodgman's house across the road. What would be more likely than for an early settler with a bride of some means as an incentive, to build a new and more comfortable place in which to live? It will appear later that Col. Hartshorne had a similar idea.

During the Paterson ownership, i. e., in 1741, the town passed a vote in reference to the Common Land, which has been adjudged by decisions of the Supreme Court, as fixing, defining and consecrating the Common Lands. In this vote is found the following paragraph:

"Also all the land on the west side of the Meeting House, that is between that and Hodgman's Brook, and so from said brook up the Great Hill as far as the southwest corner of Dea. Goodwin's land x x x shall continue to lie unfenced as they are; and to the use of the First Parish and neighborhood above said forever: never to be disposed of for any other use whatsoever, without consent of every freeholder in the Parish."

The oldest Reading Map in existence bears the date of 1750! It shows this old house at the south end of Reading Pond, and against this dwelling appears the owner's name—"Jona. Cowdrey."

The question arises—if Cowdrey did own this property in 1750, how about the Paterson deed to him under the date of 1757? Widow Paterson died in 1738. The answer may be that Cowdrey came into occupancy some years before he acquired title.

Jonathan Cowdrey lived in the old house about thirty-four years, after which, on April 20, 1792 he sold it to Dr. John Hart, the consideration being £106:10. The deed followed the wording of the Paterson deed to Cowdrey, with the addition that "the line began at the southeast corner of the SHOP; the line runs westerly by the Road to the corner West by the BARN; then northerly, as the fence now stands to land of Doctor William Hay". The consideration paid increased from £16, when Cowdrey bought, to £106 in 1792 when he sold to Hart. The land was of the same size, and probably not much increased value. The inference is that there had been a change in the building. Why not an addition, or some "raising of the roof"? That Cowdrey borrowed money, presumably for such a purpose, is shown by a mortgage given on Nov. 6, 1784 to one Jonathan Green of Chelsea for "one hundred true Spanish Milled Dollars". This mortgage deed recited that the mortgage security consists of "a certain piece of land with the dwelling house thereon *where the said Cowdrey dwells*".

This mortgage was not discharged until several months after Dr. Hart acquired the property. Dr. Hart owned the property for ten years, and it was during this time that an occupant was the Mount Maria Lodge of Freemasons.

Dr. Hart was a native of Ipswich, born there in 1751. During the Revolution from the beginning to the end of it Dr. Hart served as surgeon with great distinction, and as one who had the friendship of the immortal George Washington. Following his discharge and after a brief stay in Stoneham, the doctor settled in Reading, buying the Cowdrey property, presumably as a home. His ownership was brief for he, on Oct. 4, 1802, sold to Caleb Eaton and Aaron Damon, both Reading men. About this time Dr. Hart established the ancestral home on Main street at Wakefield Junction. The conveyance indicated that the Cowdreys' lot of one-half acre had grown to three-quarters of an acre, otherwise the description follows his deed to Cowdrey.

Eaton's History of Reading records that "Dr. Hart enlarged the house", which may be true; but the record indicates that it was Cowdrey who made the major enlargement.

The Eaton-Damon ownership continued for less than a year, for on Mar. 18, 1803 Caleb Eaton sold his interest to James Hartshorne, Jr., of Reading, followed on May 2 of the same year, by a deed from Aaron Damon, of his interest, to James Hartshorne, Jr., son of Dea. James Hartshorne.

Here originated the present day name of the Col. James Hartshorne House!

Col. Hartshorne, born 1776, and his wife Abigail, lived in this historic house from the time of their marriage in 1803 till his death in 1870, a span of 67 years. It was here that the colonel, like Hodgman, went with his bride, Abigail Coggin of Woburn; and where their many children were born. His widow continued to occupy the homestead until her death in 1884.

Following the death of Col. Hartshorne in 1870 at the advanced age of 93, and the death of his widow, familiarly known to the townspeople as "Grandmother Hartshorne", the heirs sold the property, now grown to an acreage of $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres—land extending to the west and north of the original home lot—to James Frederick Parker. This deed was dated Dec. 30, 1884, and the consideration was \$3000.

That this was a deed of convenience is evident from the fact that nine days later Parker conveyed his ownership to John Rayner of Wakefield, whose wife, Mary, was a daughter of Col. Hartshorne. This deed to Rayner bore the date of Jan. 7, 1885.

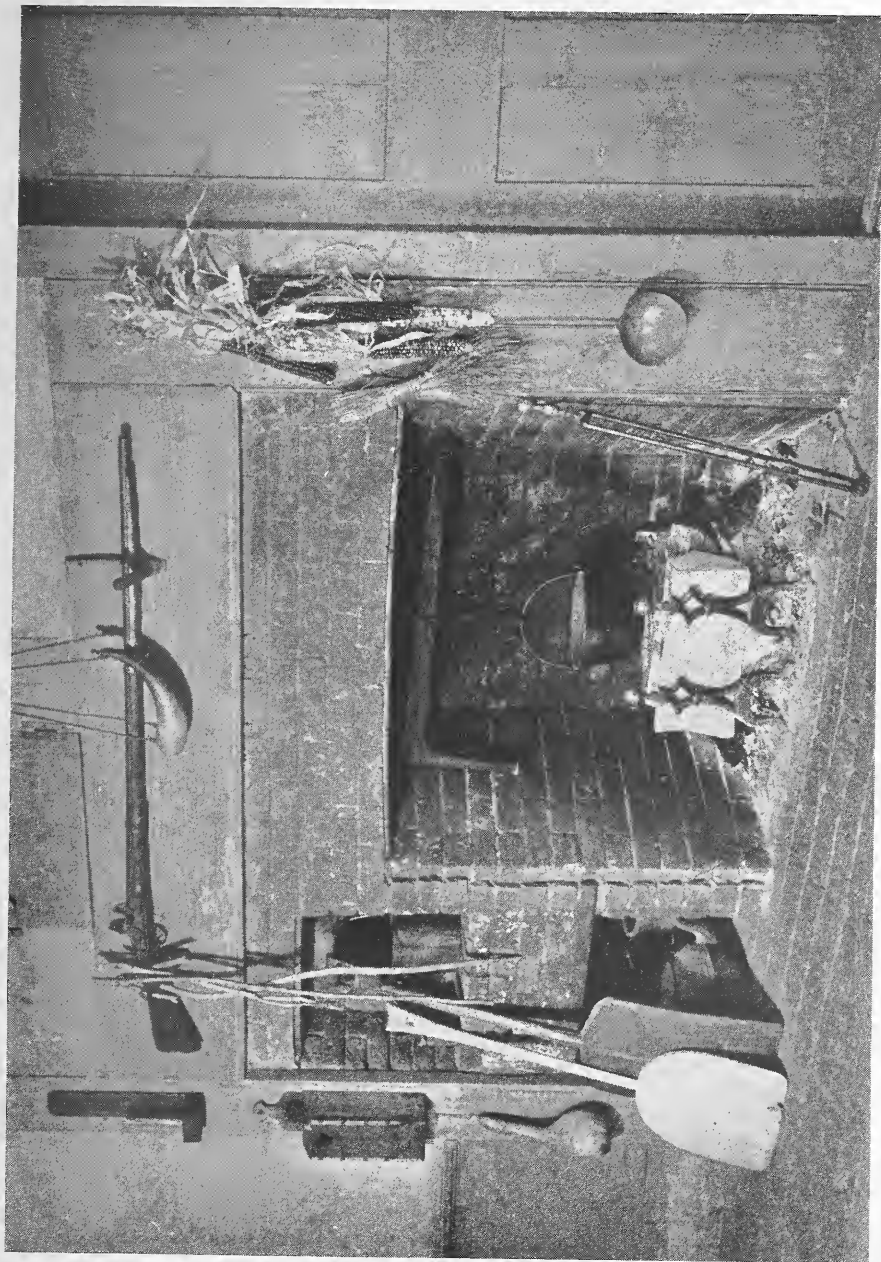
The increase in the size of the land from $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ acres to $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres appears first in 1816, when Hartshorne bought a small parcel of land to the east of his property from Francis Hay—"with the shop thereon", as the deed recites. Subsequent conveyances mention this shop as being at the southeast corner of the Hartshorne land, and on or near the County Road. It appears again when, on April 17, 1817, Oliver Holden of Charlestown, administrator, with the will annexed, of the Estate of John Hay, late of So. Reading, physician, conveyed to James Hartshorne, Jr., five acres of swamp west of the Pond, and north of the old dwelling house.

John Rayner continued in possession of the property for five years, during which time he offered to sell to the town that portion of his land at the corner of Church and Railroad streets, for park purposes. With this offer went a statement that failure to purchase would, in later years, cost the town plenty, as it was contemplated to erect ice houses on the premises. This prophecy came true, for the town finally acquired the said land in 1929 and paid the sum of \$14,999.00 for it.

John Rayner, on Oct. 30, 1890 sold his property to J. Reed Whipple of Boston and John G. Morrill of Wakefield, who proceeded to erect ice houses on the land, fronting on Railroad street, the North Avenue of the present day.

In this deed is revealed a road situation little known. It referred to a release from Raynor of his interest "to an old, discontinued county road which lies west of the Estate of Rebecca C. Arrington, whose house, formerly the home of Nathaniel Brown then stood at the south end of Lake Quannapowitt and on the north side of Church street.

This was part of an old road that began west of the South Parish meeting-house, ran along westward by the present fence



Photographed by Works Progress Administration

Interior View



of the old burial ground to the Pond shore, and thence south-westerly, up a sharp incline to the Old Church Street Road.

It was in 1807 that the South Parish sold a triangular piece of land in this location to the town.

From about 1890 the property was chiefly devoted to commercial uses. The old house began to show its age. It was occupied from time to time by temporary tenants. The old shop at the southeast corner had long since been converted into a small dwelling, that for many years stood to the east of the Hartshorne House. The old barn, long Col. Hartshorne's shoe shop, had also been torn down.

The successive ownerships in brief follow:

John G. Morrill acquired the Whipple interest, which he sold to Frank H. Atwood of Wakefield.

On April 20, 1901 Morrill & Atwood sold to the Morrill-Atwood Ice Co., a Maine Corporation—the same $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres with dwelling house.

On Mar. 28, 1914 The Maine Corporation of Morrill & Atwood Ice Co., became a Massachusetts Corporation, under the same name.

This Company next sold out to the Milton-Porter Ice Co., and this latter company continued in the ice business until fire destroyed their group of ice houses in 1929—but the old Hartshorne house escaped injury.

Then began a demand on the part of some of the townspeople that this historic land at the corner of Church street and North Avenue be bought by the town for Park uses—as a playground, and that the old house be restored and permanently cared for as a splendid example of a “good house that had come to us from the long-ago past”. Time marches on!

At a town meeting Oct. 4, 1929, on motion of the Finance Committee it was voted, “That the Town purchase for park purposes the land with the buildings thereon as described in Art. I of the Warrant (referring to the Milton-Porter Ice Co.'s property); and that the town appropriate from free cash the sum of \$14,999.00 for this purpose”. A deed from the Ice Co. to the town resulted.

On March 24, 1930, in response to an article in the Town Warrant, the town voted that \$2000 be appropriated to be spent by the Park Commissioners and the Tercentenary Committee for such restoration. So thorough was the work done that on Saturday, July 14, 1930 this interesting old house was opened to the public, to be appreciated at once for its historic value, and for its past associations.

The activities of Faneuil Hall Chapter, D. A. R., and later of the Kosmos Club and the Wakefield Arts and Crafts Society, are matters of recent public record. From their successive efforts and those of a few individuals there emerged the Col. James Hartshorne House Association formed on July 30, 1930.

At a town meeting held on Jan. 5, 1931, acting under Art. 4, and on motion of Ned C. Loud, it was voted: "That the Selectmen be instructed to petition the General Court for authority for the town to make a lease of the so-called Hartshorne House, and a tract of land with the same, all now a part of the Park System of said town, to a corporation or to an Association formed by citizens of the town for the preservation and public use thereof, with the right to charge for the same."

At a town meeting Sept. 14, 1931, acting under Art. 6, on motion of Town Counsel Clemons, it was "Voted that the town accept Chapter 98 of the Acts of 1931 entitled 'An Act authorizing the Town of Wakefield to lease certain properties held by it for Park Purposes'." Passed by a unanimous vote.

At a town meeting held Sept. 14, 1931, under Art. 7, it was Voted: "That the town authorize the Selectmen, with the consent and approval of the Park and Cemetery Commissioners, to lease from time to time, at a nominal rental, a portion within limits hereinafter set forth of certain land located on Church street in said town, and held for it for park purposes, including thereon the building known as the Hartshorne House, to an association or corporation to be organized and maintained by Wakefield citizens for the purpose of preserving and maintaining said property and devoting it to such uses as may be of benefit or accommodation to the public, for which uses reasonable charge may be made. The land so to be leased shall be within the limits of a strip 150 feet in width extending from said Church street to the shore line of Lake Quannapowitt in said town. All profits accruing to said association or corporation from the use of said property shall be used for the improvement thereof."

These acts of the voters in town meeting indicate that the custody and care of the Hartshorne House have been given to the Hartshorne House Association. The Colonel James Hartshorne whose name the house bears, was an honorable citizen. His ancestor, Thomas Hartshorne, was one of Reading's first settlers, and his descendants are today honorable citizens of Wakefield.

Chapter II
HARTSHORNE HOUSE DEEDS
and GRANTS

Recorded in Middlesex So. Dist. Registry
of Deeds

at Cambridge, Mass.

1664-1937

WILLIAM HOOPER TO MARY HODGMAN

Deed dated Dec. 14, 1664. Ack. 7th 4th mo. 1669

Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds—Book 4-331 page.

Fower Acres. Consideration £26.

Know all men by these p^rsents y^t J. Willm Hooper of Redding in the Countey of Middlesex in New England have for divers causes & consideration moveing mee thereon to & espetualy for and in consideration of the sum of twenty-six pounds to me in hand paid by Mary hogman at or before The Sealing hereof whearof & whearwith I do Acknowledg my Selfe fully sattisfied and contented & thereof & of every part thereof doe exonerate acquit and discharge the aforesaid Mary hodgman her heires executors and assignes for ever and do by these presents give grante bargaine sell en feoffe and confirme unto the said Mary Hodgman my now dwelling house being situated in Redding with fower acers of land thereunto adjoyning, with orchard, garden and fencing thereto belonging & is bounded on the *north* with y^e high waye & on the East with the land of Jsack Hart, & on the South wth y^e Lande of Roberte Burnap Jun^r & on the weste wth the Land of Thomas Kendall, To Have & to hold the said house & the fower Ackers of land be it more or less with the orchard garden and fencing & every part & parcell thereof as it is butted & bounded as abovesaid To the Propper use and behoofe of the aforesaid Mary hodgman her heirs executors & assignes forever, and further more of the said William hooper do give grant afsign en feoffe, and confirme all the right title clayme Interest & demand that ever I had in any of the aforesaid premises unto the said Mary hodgman, her heires, executors and afsigns forever And futhermore I the said William hooper do by the presents bind myselfe my heires executors & assignes to defend & p^rtect the said Mary hodgman, her heires, executors or *assignes* from my heires executors or assignes or from any other person or persons whatsoever Laying any title clayme or interest thereto by, from, or under mee the said William hooper forever, and that the said Mary hodgman her heires executors and assignes shall quietly & peaceably Injoy the said forever In Wittnes hereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seall this fourteenth of Desemb^r 1664.

Signed, sealed and
delivered In the presence off
the mak of
Philip O Jagethe
William Cowdry

The marke of
William W hooper & a seale
Ruth O hooper & a seale
William Cowdry
& Thomas Kendall

This deed of sale was acknowledged the 7th of the 4th mo 1669 by William hooper before me Simon Willard afsist Ruth the wife of William Houper did freely give up her right of her thirds of the house & land before us Comifsioners of Reding this 14th of Desembr 1664. W^m Cowdrey & Thomas Kendall

Entred the 2. 11. 1671

by Thomas Danforth. Recordr.

THOMAS AND MARY HODGMAN

TO ELIZABETH PATERSON

Deed dated Sept. 8. 1725, Ack. Sepet 27. 1725.

Recorded in Midd. So. Dist Deeds. Book 25, Page 462

Fower Acres. Consideration £100.

To all People Before whom this Deed Sale Shall come Know ye that we Thomas and Mary Hodgman in the County of Midd^{sex} in this his Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England yeoman for and in consideration of the Sum of one Hundred Pounds to us in hand Paid before the Signing and Sealing of this Instrument by Elizabeth Paterson of Reading in the county of Middle^x have given Granted Bargained & Sold unto the Said Elizabeth Paterson her heirs or Afsignes for ever a Certain Parcel of Land Containing by Eftimation four acres more or less Scituate in the Town Ship of Reading and it is part of the Homstead that the Said Hodgman Lived upon and it is Bounded Southerly by the land of Capt. Thomas Nickols easterly by the Ministerial Land Northerly by the highway Westerly by Kendal Boutwell's Land and also Thirty Poles of Land scituate in Reading aforesaid and it is the other part of Said Hodgman's homestead and the above mentioned Premises contain one house and Barn and Said Thirty Poles is Bounded Southerly by the highway Eastward by the Town Common Northerly by Thomas Buttwell's meadow Together with the Orchard Fencing Trees Timber wood Grafs Herbage Stones Uses. Heredittmants Proft and Improvements thereof To Have and to Hold all and Singular above granted Premises with whatever she is thereunto belonging or in any Ways appertaining to her the said Eliz^a Paterson her Heirs Executors Administrators and assigns to her and their own only proper use benefit and behoof from henceforth and forever more and further we the Said Tho^s and Mary Hodgman Do for ourselves, our Heirs Executors and Administrators Promise to Warrant Maintain and Defend the above Granted Premises and every part thereof To the Said Eliz^a Paterson her Heirs, Executors Administrators and Assigns from all Gifts Grants Bargain Sales Mortgage Bonds or forfeiture or any and all manner of such like Trouble or Troubles had made or done at any time by us the said Thomas and Mary Hodgman or any other Person or Persons whatsoever In Witness Whereof we the Said Thomas Hodgman and Mary Hodgman have both of us hereunto Sett our Hand and

affixed our Seale the Eighth Day of September Anno Domini
Seventeen Hundred and Twenty five and in the Eleventh Year
of the Reign of our Sovereine Lord George over Great Britain &C.

Signed. Sealed and

Deliveuire Preference of

us

Daniel Morrow Mark O

Josiah Temple

Elizabeth Merrow

Thomas Hodgman his mark xx & a Seal

Mary Hodgman's mark xx and a Seal

Midd^sS.S. Reading

Sept ye 27th 1725

Thomas Hodgman and Mary Hodgman Personally appeared
and Acknowledged this Instrument to be their Voluntary Act
and Deed before me

William Bryant Justice of the Peace

Midd^sss Camb. July ye 8. 1726 Recd and Entered

P Frd Foxcroft, Jun^r Reg^s.

JAMES PATERSON TO JONATHAN COWDRY

Deed dated Apr. 7. 1757. Ack. Apr. 7. 1757

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds Book 55 Page 52

To People to whom thefe presents shall come Greetings that
I James Paterson of Sudbury in the County of Middlesex &
Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England Blacksmith for
and in consideration of the sum of sixteen pounds lawful money
paid by Jonathan Cowdrey of Reading x x x a certain piece or
parcel of land Situate lying in Reading aforesaid about a quarter
mile west from the Old South meeting house containing about half
an acre be it the same more or less & is butted & bounded as
follows: beginning at the southeast Corner running to the West
in a straight line upon the County Road from the southwest
Corner northerly partly upon the Common & partly upon Doc^t
William Hay's land & from the West to the East upon the Pond
meadow formerly Dea. Thomas Boutles but now in possession of
Doc^r William Hay & partly upon Common land in a straight line
to the Road Said land contains *one small house* or however other-
way sd land may be bounded or reputed to be bounded. To
Have & To Hold x x x I the sd James Paterson have herunto
set my hand & seal this Seventh Day of April 1757

James Paterson & Seal

Lydia Paterson & sal

Witness

Ezra Graves

Eben^r Roby

Ack Apr. 7. before Eben^r Roby.

Recorded Apr. 13. 1757 by Frd Foxcroft. Regr

This was the Hodgman land on the north side of Church street.

JAMES PATTERSON, SON OF ELIZABETH PATTERSON
TO SAMUEL POOLE.

Deed Dated July 24. 1758. Consideration £22:13:4
Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds Book 55, Page 378

Know all Men by these presents that I, James Patterfon of Sudbury in the County of Middlesex in New England Blacksmith In Consideration of twenty-two pounds thirteen shillings & four pence lawful money paid me by Samuel Poole of Reading in the County of Middlesex in New England Husbandman the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge do hereby give grant & Convey to the said Samuel Poole his heirs and assigns a Certain Piece or parcel of Upland & meadow Scituate lying & being in Reading above sd butted & bounded as followeth northerly on the road easterly on the land of the ministerial southerly on Samuel Poole's own land westerly on land of James Emerson & so to the first mentioned bound, Containing four acres and one-quarter To Have & to hold the same to the sd Samuel Poole and to his heirs and assigns. I do covenant with the said Samuel Poole, his heirs & assigns that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises that they are free of all incumbrance that I have good right to sell & convey the same to the said Samuel Poole with all the rights Titles, Priviledges thereunto belonging & any way appertaining to hold as aforesaid & that I will warrant & defend the same to the sd Samuel Poole & to his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this twenty-fourth day of July Anno Domini 1758 and in the 32 year of His Majestys Reign King George the Second King

James Patterson & seal
Lydia Patterson & seal

Signed sealed & delivered in the presence
of Ebenezer Roby, Samuel Poole Middlesex Sudbury July 24, 1758
The within names James Patterson & Lydia his wife both personally appearing acknowledged the within written Instrument to be their voluntary act & deed before me, Ebenz^r Roby Justice Midd^x Camb. July 24. 1758 Rec'd & Entr^d P Frd Foxcroft Registrar

Note: There is no mention of any buildings on the land conveyed, which was the original Hooper land on the south side of Church street.

JONATHAN COWDRY TO JONATHAN GREEN
OF CHELSEA

Mortgage—One Hundred true Spanish Milled Dollars
Dated Nov. 6. 1784

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds Book 101 Page 453

A certain piece of land with the Dwelling House (where the said Cowdrey now dwells) & Barn, a shop & all other buildings

thereon, containing by estimation one acre of land more or less & situate in the town of Reading, butted & bounded: Southerly & southwesterly on the Road that leads from Stoneham to the Reading First Parish Meeting House. Northwesternly & Northerly on land of John Hay & easterly on land of John Hay or however otherwise bounded.

Signed. Nov. 6. 1784. Ack. Dec. 15. 1789

Recorded at Cambridge Jan. 23: 1790

This mortgage was discharged June 6. 1792, a few months after Cowdrey sold the property to Dr. Hart.

JONATHAN COWDERY TO JOHN HART

Deed Dated Apr. 20. 1792. Ack. Apr 20. 1792

One-half acre—Consideration £106:10

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds. Book 107 Page 301

Know all Men by these Presents that I Jonathan Cowdery of Reading in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, founder, in consideration of one hundred and six pounds ten shillings lawful money paid to me by John Hart of Reading, aforesaid, *Phesstion* the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do give grant sell & convey unto the sd John Hart, his Heirs & assigns a certain piece of land lying & being in Reading, First Parish nere the meeting house on the road leading from Stoneham to said meeting house containing half an acre more or less with all the buildings standing thereon. bounded, beginning at the Southeast corner of the shop, then running westerly by the road to the corner west of the barn, then running Northerly as the fence now stands to the land of Doc^t John Hay, then running Easterly by said Hay's land as the fence now stands until it comes to the corner, the running Southerly by said Hay's land as the fence now stands until it comes to the Common as the fence now stands until it comes to the Northeast corner of the shop, then running southerly by sd shop to the bounds first mentioned

Signed sealed & delivered Apr. 20. 1792

Jonathan Cowdery & seal

Rachael Cowdery & seal

Witnessed

Jonathan Green

Benj. Brown

Ack. before Benj. Brown J. of P. Apr 20. 1792

Recorded Cambridge. Ap. 23. 1792. Wm. Winthrop Regr

JOHN AND MARY HART TO CALEB EATON
AND AARON DAMON, GENTLEMEN

Deed dated Oct. 4. 1802 Consideration \$1000.

"A tract of land in Reading, South Parish, on the road leading from Reading, to Woburn, with all the buildings standing thereon, containing three quarters of an acre, be the same more or less, bounded:— beginning at the southwesterly corner of the wall, running northerly by land of Dr. John Hay to the end of the wall; then easterly as the fence x x x now stand to the corner of the same on said Hay's land; then southerly by land of said Hay to the road; thence westerly by said road to the end of the wall. Then southerly to the front corner of the shop; then westerly on the road as the buildings and fence now stand to the bounds first mentioned

John Hart
Mary Hart

Witnesses
Jos. Cordis
David Smith

Acknowledged, Oct. 4. 1802 by Jos. Cordis. J. P.

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Registry. Book 148, Page 112

CALEB EATON, CORDWAINER TO
JAMES HARTSHORNE JR.

Deed Dated Mar. 18. 1803. Consideration \$600

"One undivided half of one quarter of an acre of land, be the same more or less, with one undivided half of all the buildings standing thereon, formerly the property of Doctor John Hart, situated in Reading, joining upon the road leading from Woburn to Salem."

"Beginning at the southwest corner of the road, running northerly by land of Doctor John Hay as the wall now stands; then easterly by said Hay's land as the Willows now stand; then southerly by said Hay's land as the fence now stands to the road; thence westerly to the end of the wall; then south to the southeast corner of the shop; then westerly by the road to the bounds first mentioned as the fences and buildings now stand"

Caleb Eaton
Hannah Eaton

Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds. Book 149. Page 521

AARON DAMON OF HARTLAND, WINDSOR COUNTY,
VT., GENTLEMAN TO JAMES HARTSHORNE, JR.,
CORDWAINER

Deed Dated May. 2. 1803. Consideration \$500

"One undivided half of land and buildings" with description
following Eaton's deed to Hartshorne.

Signed

Aaron Damon
Lucy Damon

Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds. Book 153—Page 397.

FRANCIS HAY OF SO. READING, CABINET MAKER.
TO JAMES HARTSHORNE JR. ESQ.

Deed Dated Apr. 2. 1816

"A certain piece of land with the shop thereon, situated in
So. Reading, upon the northerly side of the road leading to
Woburn, and between the same and the Pond, and bounded:
beginning at the southwest corner thereof by said road, and land
of said Hartshorne; thence running northerly by said Hartshorne's
land to a stake by a post in the fence by land of heirs of John
Hay; thence running Easterly by said Heirs land two rods to
a stake; thence southerly by land of said Heirs to a stake by a
post in the front wall, forming a point; thence westerly by said
wall and the Common land by said road to the bounds first
mentioned

Signed

Francis Hay

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds, Book 219, Page 344

COL. JAMES HARTSHORNE'S HEIRS
TO JAMES FREDERICK PARKER

Deed Dated Dec. 30. 1884. Consideration \$3000.

See next conveyance—Parker to Rayner for description of
lands conveyed

Signed

John F. Hartshorne
Abigail B. Gardner
William Hubbard Hartshorne
Annie L. Hartshorne
wife of William H. Hartshorne
in her own right

John Rayner

Mary P. Rayner, wife of sd John Rayner
in her own right

Charles F. Hartshorne
Jacob C. Hartshorne
all of Wakefield
George A. Hartshorne of Woburn
Marie E. Hartshorne
Helen W. Wrisley
Benjamin F. Adams of Belmont
Emma L. Adams, his wife in her
own right

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds. Book 1691, Page 255

JAMES FREDERICK PARKER TO JOHN RAYNER

Deed Dated Jan 7. 1885. Consideration \$3000.

"A certain parcel of real estate situated in said Wakefield, formerly owner by James Hartshorne, late of said Wakefield, deceased":—

"First:—The Homestead Estate containing about $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres, with the buildings thereon, and described: Beginning at the junction of Railroad street and Church street thence the line runs northerly by Railroad street to land of the Peoples Ice Co; thence easterly by land of said Company to Lake Quannapowitt; thence running southerly and southeasterly by said Lake to land of the Town of Wakefield; thence southwesterly and westerly by land of said Town and Church street to the point of beginning.

"See deeds of James Hartshorne Jr. from Caleb Eaton, Aaron Damon, Francis Hay, Oliver Holden (2d Lot) recorded in Midd. So. Dist. Deeds: B 149, P 521; B 153, P 397; B 219, P 343; B 221, P 459

J. Frederick Parker

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds. Book 1691, Page 258

JOHN RAYNOR TO J. REED WHIPPLE OF BOSTON AND JOHN G. MORRILL OF WAKEFIELD

Deed Dated Oct. 30. 1890. Consideration \$50 etc.

Description same as in Parker to Rayner—"with the buildings thereon," and

"The southern boundary on Church street being the County Commissioners line"; and

"I also relinquish all right and title to an old, *discontinued* County Road which lies to the west of the estate of Rebecca C. Arrington."

John Rayner
Mary P. Rayner

Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds Book 2005, Page 599

JOHN G. MORRILL TO
FRANK H. ATWOOD OF WAKEFIELD

Deed Dated Jan 1. 1895. Consideration \$1. etc.

A conveyance of a part one undivided quarter interest in land bounded: West by Railroad street; north by the Boston Ice Co. to the Lake; South & southeast by land of the Town of Wakefield; then southwesterly and westerly by said town land and by Church street to the point of beginning

John G. Morrill
(no wife)

Recorded in Midd. So. Dist. Deeds. Book 2364, Page 512

The above deed also cites:

"The southerly boundary being the County Commissioners line as laid out by them."

"On said lot are *two* dwelling houses in which the same interest is conveyed. Standing also on said lot are seven ice houses, engine house and small barn"

"Said Morrill reserves individual interest to the four ice houses and barn"

J. REED WHIPPLE OF BOSTON TO
JOHN G. MORRILL AND FRANK H. ATWOOD

Deed Dated Mar. 1. 1897. Consideration \$1.00 etc.

"One-half undivided interest in land and buildings formerly owned by James Hartshorne"

Same $5\frac{1}{4}$ acre parcel as already mentioned—as in Rayner to Whipple and Morrill

J. Reed Whipple
Rose G. Whipple

This deed places Morrill & Atwood as owners each with a half interest.

Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds. Book 2545, Page 559

JOHN G. MORRILL AND FRANK H. ATWOOD
TO THE MORRILL-ATWOOD ICE CO.,
A MAINE CORPORATION

Deed Dated April 20. 1901

Same $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres with buildings.

John G. Morrill
Alice Morrill
Frank H. Atwood
Fanny H. Atwood

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds. Book 2888, Page 332

MORRILL-ATWOOD ICE CO. OF MAINE
TO THE
MORRILL-ATWOOD ICE CO., A MASS. CORP.

Deed Dated Mar. 28. 1914

Same $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

F. H. Atwood. President

Recorded Midd. So. Dist Deeds. Book 3869, Page 406

MORRILL-ATWOOD ICE CO. TO
PORTER-MILTON ICE CO.

Deed Dated Sept 15. 1919

Same $5\frac{1}{4}$ acre parcel with buildings and structures.

Morrill-Atwood Ice Co.

By F. H. Atwood, Pres.

Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds. Book 4292, Page 458

In 1929 the Porter-Milton Ice Houses were totally destroyed
by fire.

PORTER-MILTON ICE CO. TO
TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

Deed Dated Oct. 30. 1929

The same $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres: "Beginning at a point at junction of North Ave, formerly Railroad street, and Church street, and running north by North Ave to land formerly of the Middlesex Traders, now Hall; thence running easterly by said last mentioned land to Lake Quannapowitt; thence southerly and southeasterly by said Lake to land of the Town of Wakefield; thence south-westerly and westerly by Church St, by bounds of the County Commissioners' line as laid out by them."

Containing $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres

Porter-Milton Ice Co.

by H. Raymond Johnson, Pres.

Recorded Midd. So. Dist. Deeds. Book 5412—154

May 1937. At this date $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres is owned by the town of Wakefield, the land, excepting the small lot upon which stands the Hartshorne House, has been beautifully laid out as a public playground. The Hartshorne house has been given over to the care of the Col. James Hartshorne House Asso. incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



Chapter III

GENEALOGIES

of

HARTSHORNE HOUSE

OWNERS

WILLIAM HOOPER—A FIRST SETTLER

Born 1617 — Died 1678, aged 61 yrs

William Hooper came from England, in the ship "James" in 1635. He came with one Thomas Marshall as a relative, a minor, or in some capacity not known. It is probable that, on landing at Boston in Sept of that year, he accompanied his young friend Marshall to Lynn, and afterwards to Reading, where they both became first settlers. Hooper was only 18 and Marshall only 22, when they left England. There is some evidence that Hooper's wife Elizabeth was a sister of Marshall and daughter of Thomas Marshall, Sr. We next know about Hooper in 1644, when the town of Redding granted him "Lynn Meadow", location not known. His name appears next in 1647 in a list of first settlers granted land in Redding under a grant known as the First Division of Land in Redding, Massachusetts Bay Colony". His grant was for nine acres. Hooper was a member of the First Redding Church in 1648. So was Eliza Hooper, his first wife. In 1664, in the Hooper deed to Hodgman, Ruth Hooper, his second wife, signed. A Ruth Hooper joined the church 4th of the 5th month 1676. As Hooper had a daughter Ruth, born in 1653, the determination of which Ruth, wife or daughter, joined the church, remains unsolved. Elizabeth, another daughter joined the church in 1682, the 7th of the 2d month; as did her sister, Hannah and a brother William. In 1687, the 7th of the 6th month another daughter, Susannah joined the first church. William, the son, had a daughter Ruth, named for his mother and born in 1691.

The Town was generous in land grants to its first settlers. The Hooper grants, after the first nine acres, were:

1652—Ten acres against the Woburn line

Fifty acres upland beyond the Ipswich River

1659—Ten acres at the end of his ten acre lot at Burchan Plain

1663—A little meadow in the Great Swamp.

In Chapter I are described the details of Hooper's first homestead on the south side of the first Reading-Woburn road (Church St); his sale of the property to Mary Hodgman; and his newer homestead on Cowdrey's Hill. In both places he quickly laid out a garden, orchard and fencing, but it was the Cowdrey Hill property that became his farm.

He died Dec. 5, 1678 and was buried in the Old Reading Cemetery. Rev. Jno Pierpont was the minister at this time. His will was made Aug. 5, 1678 and is document 11820 in the Midd. So. Dist. Probate office at Cambridge, Mass. See also Docket 1679. The will also is found in Vol. 5, page 323, along with the inventory. See also Miscellaneous 215. In his will he bequeathed "to his wife half my upland and meadow

during her life; the other half to my son, William; he to improve it all and half to go to his mother"

"Also that my two youngest sons shall be with their mother and my son, William, till they be fifteen years of age to be helpful to them: then that they be sett to some trade."

"If my wife marries all my lands and cattle to go to son William only the household goods to my wife."

In the list of families settled in the North Precinct (No. Reading) in 1687-89 appears the name of William Hooper. This probably refers to the son of William Sr., who died three years later; but we find no explanation of his removal from the ancestral home on Cowdrey's Hill. It may have some connection with the fifty acre town-grant to his father in 1652, this acreage being located north of the Ipswich river, in what came later to be known as the North Precinct.

All of Hooper's children were born in Redding:

Mary. b. 1647 Nov. 24; m. Oct. 1, 1671 Thos. son of Thos & Elizabeth Taylor Shed, 1697.

James b. 1649; died Dec. 18, 1649, aged 10 days.
Susannah b. 1650.

Ruth b. 1653; m. Thos. Dutton Sr. of Billerica, Nov. 10, 1684.

Rebecca b. 1656; m. John Ballard at Andover, 16 Nov. 1681.

William b. Nov. 3, 1658; m. 1st Susannah—2nd Hannah—Hannah b. 1662—all probably born at the Church St. home-
stead.

Elizabeth b. 1665.

Thomas b. 1668 Apr. 2; m. Elizabeth Richardson of Boston and was in Kittery, Me. in 1696.

John b 1670 at the Cowdrey Hill farm; m. before 1701
Charity Kay, removed to what is now So. Berwick, Me.,
where all his 10 children were born.

From the above one gets a long-distance picture of the Hooper family—of the father a farmer and weaver; of the mother, busy with household duties and the raising of a sizeable family, as was the custom in the new country; of the father's desire as to his property, and that the youngest boys should be helpful to their mother.

William Hooper, the eldest surviving son, died in 1692, leaving a widow, Hannah, who was made administratrix of her husband's estate, with John Ballard, her brother-in-law. See No. 11821 in the Midd. So. Dist. Probate records, where the inventory was filed Sept. 6, 1692. This inventory shows an estate of £92:14:10, including personal. It was this William, who in 1680 was named in connection with the laying out of the North Precinct of said Redding.

The senior William Hooper left an estate appraised, House and Land, £80; 18 acres meadow £48; Swamp lot, £3; total including personal £204:15:02, a goodly estate for the times.

The Vital Statistics of Redding give little information of this family. James, the second child, died in infancy. There is also an indication of another male child who died in 1649. The marriage of Ruth and Thomas Dutton Sr. of Billerica Nov. 10. 1684 is recorded—and the only one in the V. S. She was the granddaughter of William Sr.

There appears nothing on any record searched by the writer to indicate that the Sr. Hooper held any civic or elective office. His son, however, served in 1685 as Selectman. In 1688 Hooper Sr. contributed £2:10 toward the new Second Meeting House.

In the 1667 list of 59 houses in the town are the names of William Hooper and Thomas Hodgman. This is evidence that Hooper built his Cowdrey's Hill house previous to 1667 and probably about 1664 when he sold his Church street property.

William Hooper is the person mentioned as being absent from home in 1675 in a battle against the Indians of Middlesex County. There is no record that he lived elsewhere. After 1695 no one bearing the name of Hooper remained in Reading. The name William continued through six generations in direct line.

A Hooper genealogist says: "The surname of Hooper was first used in England in 1275. No one has ever searched the English records to see from whence William came. Another researcher goes further than this and states that "William was a weaver and Marshall a shoemaker". The will of 1678 mentions "My Loombs and all my Tackling" to my son". It can be said that he came from some place of manufacture in England. In 1635 the only town of importance in manufacture that was close to the Port of London, from which place William sailed, was Reading, 35 miles distant. Thomas Bancroft, one of the first settlers of Reading, Massachusetts, came from Reading, England, where weaving was an important industry. He sailed only three months before Hooper and Marshall." Thus this genealogist advances the theory that Hooper was of Reading, England, origin.

THOMAS HODGMAN

Born ? — Died 1729

Thomas Hodgman appeared in Redding in 1663, in which year he married Mary Morrill, the young widow of Ezekiel Morrill, who died suddenly while on a visit at Roxbury. Ezekiel Morrill d. May 23. 1663. Inventory of his estate June 13. 1663 showed House and land of the value of £24. and with personal property of a total value of £93:11. His will was allowed July 7. 1663 and sworn to by Mary Morrill, lawful heir by will. The Hodgman genealogist does not go back of the year 1663.

It has been shown that in 1664 the Hodgmans bought the first William Hooper house and land on Church street, at first a highway from Redding to Woburn. There are several town

references to "Hodgman's Brook" that then ran from a point south of the present Church St. crossing of the Boston & Maine Railroad northeasterly to Reading Pond—(Lake Quannapowitt).

It is on record that on June 26, 1681 Reading's Land Commissioners sold 25 poles of land on the northerly side of Church street to Thomas Hodgman; and that this land lay to the west of Hodgman's house, which seems definitely to establish the fact that at some time previous to 1681 Hodgman had abandoned the early and small Hooper dwelling, for a newer house across the road. In a record of town action on Feb. 11, 1683 regarding land to the north, west and south of the Great Pond, we find this descriptive note: "Likewise all the land lying and being within the buttments following: from the brook by Hodgman's house and so along by the Great Pond unto the northern end of same."

The story of Hodgman selling his homestead in 1725 to the Widow Paterson has been previously told in some detail.

Thomas Hodgman had a good, clear, and creditable military record. He served in the King Phillip's War of 1676. His service is recited in "Reading Men in the Early Colonial Wars", a booklet by Loea Parker Howard, whose research labors in Ancient Redding constitute a meritorious collection of historical records. Hodgman is shown as serving in Capt. Jonathan Poole's Co. of Redding, with Joseph Hartshorne, Benjamin Davis, John Burnap, John Boutell, Samuel Foster and other Redding men. He was also a member of Capt. Prentiss' Troop of Horse in the Narragansett Campaign. In return for his military service, he, with others, participated in a grant of land eight miles square in the Nipmug Country.

In 1728, the year previous to his death, Hodgman deeded to his cousin, Samuel Dix, "my interest in a certain tract of land, eight miles square, which was granted by the General Court to the Narragansett soldiers, and so to me, I being one of them." This deed is recorded in Midd. So. Dist Registry, Book 27, page 117.

The deed of Isaac Hart to the town in 1688, conveyed a large tract of land extending northerly from the present Baptist Church to the Great Pond, reveals that this land was at that time in possession, under lease, to Thomas Hodgman. This land extended from the present Town Common to the Hodgman homestead lot and was acquired as a site for the new Second Meeting House, built in 1689.

Hodgman in 1686 contributed one shilling of Reading's part in paying the Indians for land taken by the early settlers, and gave £5 toward the cost of the new Meeting House.

There is to be found only one black mark on the Hodgman record. It was made in 1671 when Thomas Hodgman and wife, and four other well known men of Reading, "for their uncivill carriages in an unseasonable time of the night at Thomas Clark's house (on Cowdrey's Hill) was admonished and fined costs".

But a truthful genealogist may be pardoned, if he recites an item in the Church records of 1661: "George Davis, having been sometime in ye guilt of wanton words and carriage to Mary Morrill (later Mary Hodgman). He acknowledged his fault to the elders," and there appears on the records the story of Davis' humiliation and satisfaction given to the church.

In Stearns' History of New Hampshire Genealogies is found the following reference to the Hodgman Family: "Among the early immigrants of Massachusetts was Thomas Hodgman—the ancestor of the family of his name. Religious differences were, no doubt, the cause of his removal from the comfort and luxuries of Old England to the unhospitable shore and savage wilderness of New England, where nothing but the things most necessary to civilized life were obtained. The family has been represented in New England since the narrow fringe of English settlements were formed along the Massachusetts coast and has furnished in 250 years many industries and respectable citizens whose labor has contributed to the material, moral, intellectual and educational growth of the country. Thomas Hodgman was a resident of Reading as early as 1663. His widow, "old Mrs. Mary Hodgman, died in 1735, aged 95 years". Her name appears on the 1721 list of members of the First Parish Church.

The Hodgmans had no children, but did early adopt a young man named Josiah Webber, giving him the Hodgman name. It is through Josiah and his wives, Elizabeth and Wid. Grace Boutell, that we today find their descendants in nearly all sections of the United States.

Thomas, the father, conveyed several of his various land holdings to his son, who was a weaver. The consideration general was "Love and Goodwill". These gifts included ten acres at Sturbridge Swamp; four acres at the west end of my meadow in ye Parker's Saw Pit: and twelve acres "at a place called the Dividents". On Oct. 28. 1684 John Trumball of Charlestown conveyed to Thos. Hodgman a 27 acre woodlot in Charlestown on the northerly side of the Mistick River. In 1725 Hodgman sold eleven acres in Richardson Meadow to John Townsend Jr. of Reading for £54:5:8.

On Nov. 20. 1689 Thomas Jackson, whose wife, Hannah, was a widow of Thomas Tower, deeded to Thomas Hodgman, yeoman, and Josiah Hodgman, alias Webber. for £21, his homestead and twenty acres, bounded easterly by Jonas Eaton; northerly by a swamp; westerly with ye land improved by Damon; and southerly with the Town Common, together with all housings, gardens, orchards, yards & swamp wood".

This date suggests that it was on this farm that young Josiah and his first wife Elizabeth established their home; where she died in 1721; and where his second wife Grace came to live in 1724. It is believed that this farm was near the old Bear Hill Road in the west part of the town of Wakefield.

Josiah's child by Elizabeth was Thomas, born in 1693; settled in the West Parish and married in 1714 Abigail Gerry of Stoneham. Children of this Thomas were: Elizabeth b. 1715; Josiah b. 1721; Benjamin b. 1722; Jonathan b. 1725; Thomas b. 1727; David b. 1729; Timothy b. 1731; John b. 1733.

Josiah, the father, owned the Covenant and was baptized in the Reading church in 1689; his wife Grace was received into the same church as "Wid. Grace Boutell" in 1699. Josiah's son Thomas was later of Lynn, where three of his children, were baptized in 1727, 1731 and 1733.

The Compendium of American Genealogies. Vol 4. Page 406 records that Josiah Hodgman was born in 1668 and died in 1749.

The year after his grandfather died Thomas, named as Yeoman, sold to Thos. Bancroft of Reading, Apr. 10. 1730, 5¼ acres at Dirty Bridge in Reading. The deed described this land as bounded "Northerly by my own land in the Plain; and westerly by the meadow I sold to Samuel Bancroft".

That Thomas Hodgman lived in a house that was either on the present site of the Hartshorne House, or in a small dwelling that in whole or part is the west end of the Hartshorne House of this year 1937 is made clear by this Narrative. The writer has attempted, with some success, he believes, to prove that the second situation named above is historically correct. This property he sold to the Widow Paterson in 1725.

THE WIDOW PATERSON

In the Vital Statistics of Wakefield, omitted in the V. S. of old Reading, is this single line:

"Pattison — W. of — June 1738 'C. R.'",
referring to the Congregational Church Records.

If this be the Widow Paterson, who bought the Hodgman homestead in 1725 she lived there for only thirteen years. The query is—who occupied the premises from 1738 to 1757 when her son sold his mother's homestead to Jonathan Cowdrey?

Another son Jonathan was killed in the French and Indian War of 1758.

JONATHAN COWDREY

Jonathan Cowdrey came to Reading about 1757 when he acquired the homestead of the Widow Paterson after her decease, his deed coming from James Paterson, of Sudbury, a son. He remained in Reading, occupying the so-called Hartshorne House until 1792 when he sold to Dr. John Hart.

It is held that this Jonathan Cowdrey was not related to the old Reading Cowdrey family. The writer knows little of his life before or after he removed from Reading.

His wife was Rachael, and he had a daughter. Susannah, born July 10, 1755, who, in 1782. Jan 3. married Rev. Charles Stearns of Lincoln, Mass.

Jonathan is said to have been a clock and buckle maker. It is said also that he made the old weather cock that for nearly a century was perched upon the spire of the old First Parish Meeting House.

The Vital Statistics of Reading, up to 1850 have only one record of this family—that of the marriage of his daughter above mentioned.

The first detailed map of the First Parish of Reading in 1750 shows the Hartshorne house on the northerly side of Church street, and indicates by name that it was the home of Jonathan Cowdrey. Col. Nichols' plan of 1765 also shows the Hartshorne House but fails to identify its owner. An old map of Reading in 1795 shows the Hartshorne House, as well as a smaller building across the road to the southeast. Neither is identified as to owner.

It has already been shown that after Jonathan had made his home here for 27 years, he borrowed money on a mortgage of his property, probably to enlarge his dwelling. This was eight years before he sold to Dr. John Hart. The fact that Cowdrey paid James Patterson only £22 and that he sold to Dr. Hart the identical property for £106 is very conclusive evidence that there had been a major enlargement of the house during Cowdrey's ownership. There is nothing to show that Cowdrey remained in Reading after 1792.

At a meeting of the First Parish of Reading, held April 29. 1782 Article I of the warrant reads:

"To see what Instructions the Parish will give their Treasurer or Treasurers Relative to Settling with Mr. Jonathan Cowdery, Collector, or what they will do about it.?"

Voted: "That Nath'l Wiley, Treasurer shall receive of Mr. Jonathan Cowdery, a former War Collector what is still due the Parish of his Collection & to Recou & Receive the same agreeably as the Law Directs."

A later vote reads:

Voted: "The Treasurer be Directed to put all the notes in Suit next May Court if not paid that is due the Parish."

The records of the Superior Court for Middlesex County tell the sequel to the above Parish action. Record No. 148921.

Reading, July 16. 1782

"I, for value received promise to pay unto Nat'l Wiley, Treasurer, or his successor in office, the sum of twenty-two pounds on Demand with Interest till paid. as witness my hand,

Jon^a Cowdrey"

The Parish offered testimony "that said Cowdrey, tho requested, has not paid the same, but neglects it"; so the Parish sued claiming damages of thirty-five pounds.

The Court ruled, in 1783. that Cowdrey "pay the Town £23:3:9 lawful money as Damages".

Cowdrey appealed, but the record shows that later he paid to the Court "£23:13 debt and £3:17:2 costs on behalf of the plaintiff in full".

Eaton's History makes mention of Oliver Pope as having been at some time an occupant of the Hartshorne House. In 1781 the town "warned new settlers out of the town to prevent their gaining a settlement, but it also happened that valuable and desirable families were warned to depart". Ebenezer Pope, father of Oliver, and his wife Sarah, and other children were warned to leave this town and depart to Danvers.

DR. JOHN HART

Born 1751 — Died 1836

John Hart was a direct descendant of Thomas and Alice Hart, who were in Ipswich, Mass., as early as 1641. Of the doctor it has been said that "he carried in his veins blood of a most honorable ancestry".

John Hart was born in Ipswich on Oct. 23d, 1751, son of John and Mary (Knowton) Hart. At the age of fourteen he became a student under Dr. John Califf, an English physician who had settled in Ipswich. At nineteen he had so far progressed in medical science that he felt competent to practice, and soon located in Georgetown, Me., now the City of Bath.

He reached his 24th birthday in 1775 just at the beginning of the War of the Revolution. He was given a commission as Surgeon in the Army and for nine years his life was devoted to the struggle of the Colonies for their independence. His service during this long period was conspicuously meritorious.

His first service was in Col. Prescott's regiment at Cambridge, Mass. Following the evacuation of Boston by the British in 1776 the Doctor accompanied Col. Prescott's regiment to New York. Next followed his appointment as Surgeon in the 2^d Mass. Regt. with which organization he remained until the close of the war in 1783. He was one of forty-one officers appointed by Gen. Washington to attend the execution of Maj. Andre, a victim of Benedict Arnold's treason. On one occasion Gen. Washington delegated Dr. Hart to go to Boston and bring him \$3000, in gold which had been deposited there for the General. This was an arduous trip on horseback.

A son, Dr. Samuel Hart, has written a comprehensive, personal sketch of his father that may be read with interest on pages 716 to 723 in Eaton's History of Reading.

Dr. Hart married Dec. 28. 1778, Miss Mary Gould, only child of Capt. Abraham Gould of Stoneham.

They had nine children. Of these six grew to manhood and womanhood: Mary b. 1779 married Henry son of Rev. Caleb Prentiss, and settled in Paris, Me.; Abraham, b. 1782, named for his grandfather, became a physician, and settled in the West Parish; died at the age of 24; Sarah b. 1788, married Dr. Thaddeus Spaulding, a local physician in So. Reading for many years; Lucinda, b. 1790 became the second wife of Dr. Spaulding; Samuel, the youngest b. 1796, graduated from Harvard in 1817, and practiced medicine in New York State.

For a short time after the War Dr. Hart practiced in Stoneham, but soon removed to Reading, purchasing from Jonathan Cowdrey, in 1792 what is now known as the Col. Hartshorne House and land. Here he lived for several years, perhaps up to 1802 when he sold to Caleb Eaton and Aaron Damon.

The Doctor had acquired his homestead, which he was long to occupy, on Main street, Wakefield Junction. His estate was earlier the homestead of Elias and Isaac Smith, sons of Francis Smith, who was one of Reading's first settlers.

In 1812 the First Parish of Reading became the Town of South Reading. The first town meeting was held Mar. 5. 1812 under a warrant from John Hart, Esq., who was elected moderator, a position he held for many years, yielding only a few years to his son-in-law, Dr. Spaulding.

At the second meeting on Mar. 14, following, Dr. Hart was named on a committee to settle with the Town of Reading "respecting the poor and other matters". As Justice of the Peace he exhibited a good legal mind.

During the War of 1812 Dr. Hart served on a Committee to support the Government.

On Sept. 26. 1836, acting as Executor of the Estate of Dr. Hart Dr. Spaulding tendered to the Congregational Society of So. Reading, "a demand which I hold against Rev. Reuben Emerson's Parish of two hundred dollars"—this sum for the sole use and benefit of said Parish forever."

Dr. Hart died April 27. 1836. In the Old Burial ground, not far from where Dr. Hart and his family resided during the early childhood of his children, are stones as follows:

"Hon John Hart—1751—Apr 27. 1836. Aged 85 years;

John Hart Jr.—1810—Aged 24 years;

Mrs. Mary Hart—July 8. 1812—aged 90;

Mrs. Mary Hart—1753—1838—Aged 86."

John Hart's will was made 26 April 1836.

CALEB EATON, 1773 — 1846

AND

AARON DAMON, 1791 — .

These two persons came into possession of the Hart's Church street property in 1802, but continued in possession only a few months, when they passed title to James Hartshorne Jr. Caleb Eaton was son of Lilley and Sarah Eaton; born Dec. 20. 1773. It is said that Caleb and family occupied the old house during their brief ownership. He married Hannah Woodward Blair of Boston (int) Aug. 31. 1800. Their first son, Caleb, was born a few months after they had sold the Hart house. It is possible that Caleb took his bride there previous to buying and occupying as a tenant of Dr. Hart. Caleb died in So. Reading Jan 30. 1846, aged 71 years. His wife died June 30. 1843, aged 68 yrs.

Aaron Damon, a son of Lieut Aaron and Lucy (Emerson) Damon was born in So. Reading, Apr. 23. 1791. Reading records give no additional information. He probably removed from town.

HARTSHORN(E)

The name, Hartshorn, came from a parish in the Litchfield diocese, Derbyshire, England, and was so named from its resemblance to a hart's horn. The Hartshorne coat-of-arms is three buck's head, and the crest is a buck's head.

Thomas Hartshorn, the first settler, was born in Reading, England about 1620. Having come to Redding in America, he was made a freeman of the Mass. Bay Colony in 1648. His will is dated Oct. 26, 1681. He died May 1683.

(From the History of the Hartshorn Family by Ella May Lewis.)

He had two wives, Susanna Bruce, of Reading, and Sarah Ayres Lamson, of Ipswich. The Wakefield Hartshornes are descended from Benjamin, b. 1654, fifth son of Thomas and Susanna. The line goes as follows:

Thomas, 1620—1683, who had son

Benjamin, b. 1654, who had son

Benjamin, b. 1685, whose son was

James (Deacon), b. 1750, m. Sarah, Oct. 31, 1771, whose son was

James Jr., b. 1776—d. 1870.

COL. JAMES HARTSHORNE

Born 1776 — Died 1870

Col. James Hartshorne was a direct descendant of Thomas Hartshorne, one of Reading's early settlers, whose homestead was on the westerly side of the present Elm street, his house being

nearly opposite and south of Winn street. In this ancestral home Col. Hartshorne was born, Aug 13 1776.

The father of James Jr. was Dea. James Hartshorne, his mother Sarah Hopkinson. He married May 29. 1803. Abigail Coggin, b. 1778. of Woburn (marriage intentions). This was the year and about the same time that he acquired the old Dr. Hart house to which he took his bride and where his many children were born.

The first wife of Col. James Jr. died of consumption on Sept. 13, 1816. On Oct. 14, 1819, he married Mary Poole, daughter of Thomas Poole of Woburn.

His children were:

- 1—James, b. 1807: m. Maria Williams: was a trader in Boston and lived in Belmont.
- ✓ 2—Abigail, b. 1809: m. Samuel Gardner of So. Reading.
- ✓ 3—Jacob Coggin, b. 1810: married Mary Blanchard.
- 4—John Francis, b. 1812: married Henrietta Burt of So. Reading.
- 5—George W., b. 1813, who m. Abigail Bryant and settled in Woburn.
- 6—William Hubbard, b. 1826; died in infancy.
- 7—Mary Parker, b. 1830, who m. John Rayner.
- 8—Charles Frederick, b. 1835.

Several other children died in infancy.

On Page 160 of Eaton's History of Reading is mention of Col. Hartshorne's father as a member of the Reading Young Men's Christian Asso., thought to be the first of that organization in America.

Col. Hartshorne acquired his military title as commander of a company of cavalry, organized in 1797 for men of Reading and vicinity. Tradition furnishes the story that in the War of 1812, night after night patriotic husbands of this gallant organization put sword and uniform within easy reach, while brave wives filled saddle bags with provisions that there might be no delay in marching to repel the British, who were expected to land between Salem and Gloucester.

A good story is told of this Company about townspeople, leaving the South Parish Meeting House one morning early, going over the road to Boston, rushing the Charlestown bridge without paying the toll, and going by boat down the harbor to assist in fortifying the forts.

In this military expedition we can picture the gallant Colonel, resplendant in the striking, colorful uniform of the Washington Rifle Greens, heading the cavalcade. It is believed that Col. Hartshorne continued with this organization until it disbanded in 1828.

Col. Hartshorne was a shoe manufacturer, his shop being

located in the building located west of the house. Further west toward and near the southwest corner of the homestead was the barn, also used in part for business. As was the custom in those early days, the Colonel bought and furnished materials that were distributed to people about town, according to their ability to do work on this or that part of the shoes. The Colonel sold these shoes, when they were completed, to widely scattered customers, some as far south as New Orleans.

Following the death of Col. Hartshorne on Dec. 25, 1870 at the advanced age of 93 years, his aged widow continued to live in the old homestead, under the care of her daughter, Mary and Mr. Raynor, her husband. On "Grandmother Hartshorne's" death, or a short time thereafter they came into possession of Col. James' Church street Homestead by deed of the heirs, through James Frederick Parker acting as an intermediary.

Col. Hartshorne was a substantial citizen and highly regarded for his personal integrity. This is evidenced from his fifteen years conspicuous and complicated service as Treasurer of the First Parish—a service that began with his election in 1822, as successor to John Gould, and continued until 1838, when, declining re-election, the Parish elected Capt. Thos. Emerson.

It was during the Colonel's term of office that the famous law suits of Rev. Reuben Emerson against Benjamin B. Wiley for trespass; and the counter suit for damages by Wiley against the Parish, were tried before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. These suits, which began in 1828 and continued for three years, became not only of great local interest, but also valuable for the comprehensive judicial opinions rendered by the Supreme Court. Mr. Wiley, after long and tedious legal proceedings, won his case. Damages were set at \$600. On June 18, 1832, the following Parish vote was passed:—

"Voted to hire six hundred dollars and that the Treasurer, be authorized to hire the money on the best terms he can for the Parish."

Note: Verbatim reports of these suits appear in Pickering's Reports, Nos. 7 and 10.

From 1828 continuously to 1837 inclusive Col. Hartshorne also served on the committee charged with providing wood for the minister, Rev. Reuben Emerson.

JOHN RAYNER

Born 1823 — Died July 27. 1891

John Rayner was born in Townsend, Mass., in 1823, was a carpenter by trade, and a mechanic as well. His father was Jacob Rayner, his mother, Nabby Rayner. Coming to So. Reading he married, Nov. 29. 1863 Mary Parker Hartshorne, a

daughter of Col. James Hartshorne. The marriage was solemnized by Rev. Thos. Greenwood of Malden. John gave his age as 40 and his bride's as 32 years.

Rayner followed his trade about town; was a man of views; for many years was engineer at the Thos. Emerson Sons' shoe factory, located on the present site of the Y. M. C. A. building at Main street and Yale avenue.

After the death of the widow of Col. Hartshorne, the heirs, in the last days of 1884 and the first days of 1885 conveyed the property now known as the Hartshorne House and land adjoining to James Frederick Parker, who conveyed it to John Rayner. The latter held it for five years. In 1890 he sold to Whipple and Morrill. For many years, Rayner and his wife occupied the dwelling now standing on the southeast corner of North Ave. and Church street. This property was owned by the Raynors up to their death; he died in 1891; his widow, on June 21, 1916, so surviving her husband by a quarter of a century.

Thus endeth the story of the men and women who owned and lived in the Hartshorne House from about 1681 down to 1885; since which time it was occupied by transient tenants, until its care and preservation were given over by the Town of Wakefield through its Park Department to the Col. Hartshorne House Association, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Addenda

The Col. Hartshorne House was the first meeting place of Mount Moriah Masonic Lodge of Reading with Dr. Hart as landlord. The Lodge was instituted Sept. 14, 1798, and continued for about fifty years. The last reference to the Lodge in the Grand Lodge records indicates that a representative of the Lodge attended a session of the Grand Lodge Dec. 27, 1848. It is assumed that the Lodge went out of existence soon after that time.

At the time the Lodge was instituted South Reading (Wakefield) had not been set apart from Reading.

Lodge meetings were held in two west rooms. A hinged door between the rooms was evidently raised to the ceiling when sessions were held, if one may judge from the construction and as indicated by the hangers.

The Hartshorne Family monument in the so-called "Old Cemetery", west of the First Congregational Church, bears the following inscriptions:

James Hartshorne, Apr. 25, 1870—93 yrs., 8 mos., 12 das.
Abigail Coggin (wife), Oct. 5, 1816—38 yrs., 2 mos., 24 das.
Jas. Hartshorne (child), Oct. 13, 1806—3 mos., 27 das.
Jacob Coggin Hartshorne (child), July 10, 1841—30 yrs., 10 mos., 1 day.
Thomas Wilson } Sept. 5, 1822—1 yr., 1 mo., 3 days
Thomas Wilson } Aug. 18, 1843—19 yrs., 9 mos., 1 da.
William Hubbard } Aug. 3, 1826—1 yr., 7 mo., 11 das.
 (Children of James and Mary Hubbard)

Nearby gravestones are marked as follows:

Dea. James Hartshorn—Jan. 28, 1824—78 yrs.
Mrs. Sarah Hartshorn—Mar. 15, 1841—89 yrs.
John Francis Hartshorn—Aug. 29, 1800—25 yrs.
Jonathan Hartshorn—Nov. 13, 1803—25 yrs.
James Henry Hartshorn—Sept. 17, 1883—14 mos.
Abigail R. Hartshorn—Feb., 1872
J. Francis Hartshorn—1823
James Hartshorn—Sept. 25, 1729—2 yrs., 2 mos.
James Hartshorn—July 28, 1775—3 yrs.
May Hartshorn—July 10, 1749
Robert R. Hartshorn—Apr., 1853—son of J. & A. Hartshorn
Jos. Hartshorn—Mch., 1875
Dea. Washington Hartshorn—July 11, 1854—62 yrs., 8 mos.
Mrs. Lucy Hartshorn—Dec. 18, 1821—30 yrs.
Jeremiah Hartshorn—Sept. 1, 1838—78 yrs.
Mrs. Margaret Hartshorn—Apr. 30, 1823—59 yrs. (wife)

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